

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /109 W

----- 029608

R 221010Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9987

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRSSILIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TS

SUBJ: CURRENT PRICE FOR TUNISIAN CRUDE

REF: TUNIS 3125

1. ACCORDING TUNISIAN OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH PETROLEUM MATTERS, TUNISIA HAS CONCLUDED CONTRACTS TO SELL ITS AVAILABLE CRUDE FOR THE ENTIRE SECOND HALF OF 1975 AT \$11.55/BARREL. HE INDICATED MOST OF CRUDE IS TO "AMERICAN COMPANY", BUT IT IS BELIEVED THIS MIGHT WELL REFER TO BRAZILIAN COMPANY PETROBRAS AS WELL AS TO US COMPANY. HE INDICATED THAT TUNISIA HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISPOSE OF MOST AVAILABLE CRUDE FOR FIRST HALF OF 1975 AT \$11.75/BARREL AND SAID THAT SHORTFALL IN DELIVERIES

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HAD NOT BEEN DUE TO INABILITY TO FIND MARKETS BUT TO

UNAVAILABILITY OF CRUDE TO MEET CONTRACTED LIFTINGS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO "TECHNICAL MISTAKES" BY JUNIOR STAFF IN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY ETAP, WHICH HAD OVER-ESTIMATED PROBABLE PRODUCTION FROM EL BORMA FIELD, AND TO DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING TANKER MOVEMENTS WHEN REQUIRED FOR RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES OF TUNISIAN CRUDE. (ETAP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SALE ON INTERNATIONAL MARKET OF DISPOSABLE CRUDE FROM EL BORMA FIELD, PRODUCED IN JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN ITALIAN COMPANY AGIP/ENI AND GOT.)

2. SOURCE AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT TUNISIAN PRICE OF \$11.55/BARREL PROBABLY HIGHER THAN PRICE RECEIVED BY BOTH LIBYA AND ALGERIA BUT SAID LIBYAN AND ALGERIAN PRICES HARD TO DETERMINE BECAUSE OF CURRENT SELLING PRACTICES BY THESE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ADMITTED HAVING LITTLE INFORMATION ON LIBYAN CRUDE PRICES BUT SAID THAT ALGERIAN PRICE WAS PROBABLY CLOSE TO EQUIVALENT OF \$11.25/BARREL.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS05080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750291-0174
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750825/aaaaavlh.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS 3125
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT PRICE FOR TUNISIAN CRUDE
TAGS: ENRG, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006